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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/608,612	06/30/2000	Dhananjay V. Keskar	219.38424X00	9430

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EXAMINER
MAHMOUDI, HASSAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2175	

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/608,612	Applicant(s) KESKAR ET AL.	
	Examiner Tony Mahmoudi	Art Unit 2175	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2000 is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

DOV POPOVICI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. Applicant is requested to submit application serial numbers for the concurrently filed applications, listed on the information disclosure statement, filed on June 30, 2000, in order to be considered by the examiner.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because of the following informalities:

In figure 1, empty block 200 must be labeled.

Correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 17-22 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 17, line 12: "one item said related" should be --one item in said related--.

Claims 18-22 are objected to because they are dependent from objected to independent claim 17.

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geary (U.S. patent No. 6,070,160) in view of Gilmour (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,197.)

As to claim 1, Geary teaches a method of automatically finding and organizing items similar to example items (see Abstract), comprising:

providing related (see column 2, lines 24-33), not related (see column 14, lines 55-58), and suggestions group areas for one organization instance (see column 10, lines 55-64), each of these areas to contain items;

searching a database to locate at least one item which is related to at least one item in the related group area based on a predetermined criterion and placing the located at least one item in the suggestions group area (see column 2, lines 24-33);

modifying the predetermined criterion (see column 27, lines 29-39) based on at least one of the user providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one of the group areas to another of the group areas (see column 42, lines 46-48); and

continually searching the database to locate and place additional items in the suggestions group area which are related to the at least one item in the related group area based upon the modified predetermined criterion (see column 22, lines 22-31 and column 39, lines 44-51.)

Geary does not teach receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area.

Gilmour teaches a method of constructing a profile (see Abstract), in which he teaches receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area (see column 28, lines 19-28, and see column 29, lines 26-32.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Geary to include receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Geary by the teaching of Gilmour, because receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area, would provide categorization of related searchable items into classes or groups of information by storing all related information about the established group/entity into a designated area.

As to claim 2, Geary as modified teaches wherein the predetermined criterion (see Geary, column 27, lines 29-39) comprises assigning a normalized relevance score for each item based on each item's relevance to the at least one item in the related group area (see Geary, column 36, line 65 through column 37, line 7, where "assigning relevance score to an item"

is read on "assigning of characteristics of objects) and wherein located items having a relevance score greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in the suggestions group area (see Geary, column 38, line 33 through column 39, line 4.)

As to claim 3, Geary as modified teaches the method further comprising providing a user interface (see Geary, column 37, lines 8-10, and column 41, lines 13-17) including visual representations of the related, not related, and suggestions group areas, each visual representation of an area including a visual representation of items contained therein (see Geary, column 37, lines 10-18, and column 42, lines 36-37.)

As to claim 4, Geary as modified teaches wherein the user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface by moving a visual representation of the item from a visual representation of the one group area to a visual representation of the another group area (see Geary, column 15, lines 12-26, and see column 42, lines 39-46.)

As to claim 5, Geary as modified teaches wherein the user interface comprises a graphical user interface (see Geary, column 41, lines 17-20) and the visual representations of the group areas each comprises a pane on a display (see Geary, column 52, lines 5-15, where "pane on a display" is supported by the structure of "displaying image packets".)

As to claim 6, Geary as modified teaches wherein the user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface (see Geary, column 41, lines 17-20) by dragging a visual representation of the item from a pane of the one group area to a pane of the another group area (see Geary, column 42, lines 39-48.)

As to claim 7, Geary as modified teaches wherein each of the items comprises a document (see Geary, column 7, lines 25-37.)

As to claim 8, Geary as modified teaches the method further comprising providing related (see Geary, column 2, lines 24-33), not related (see Geary, column 14, lines 55-58) and suggestions group areas (see Geary, column 10, lines 55-64) for at least one other organization instance and further comprising modifying the predetermined criterion (see Geary, column 27, lines 29-39), based on the user moving an item from the related group area of the at least one other organization instance to the not related group area of the one organization instance or from the not related group area of the at least one other organization instance to the related group area of the one organization instance or from the suggestions group area of the at least one other organization instance to the related or not related group areas of the one organization instance (see Geary, column 15, lines 12-26, and see column 42, lines 39-46.)

As to claim 9, Geary teaches a tangible medium embodying a computer program (see Abstract, where "medium" is read on "apparatus"), the program (see column 2, lines 47-62)

automatically finding and organizing items similar to example items (see column 2, lines 24-33) and comprising:

providing related (see column 2, lines 24-33), not related (see column 14, lines 55-58), and suggestions group areas for one organization instance (see column 10, lines 55-64), each of these areas to contain items;

searching a database to locate at least one item which is related to at least one item in the related group area based on a predetermined criterion and placing the located at least one item in the suggestions group area (see column 2, lines 24-33);

modifying the predetermined criterion (see column 27, lines 29-39) based on at least one of the user providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one of the group areas to another of the group areas (see column 42, lines 46-48); and

continually searching the database to locate and place additional items in the suggestions group area which are related to the at least one item in the related group area based upon the modified predetermined criterion (see column 22, lines 22-31 and column 39, lines 44-51.)

Geary does not teach receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area.

Gilmour teaches a method of constructing a profile (see Abstract), in which he teaches receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area (see column 28, lines 19-28, and see column 29, lines 26-32.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Geary to include receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Geary by the teaching of Gilmour, because receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area, would provide categorization of related searchable items into classes or groups of information by storing all related information about the established group/entity into a designated area.

As to claim 10, Geary as modified teaches wherein the predetermined criterion (see Geary, column 27, lines 29-39) comprises assigning a normalized relevance score for each item based on each item's relevance to the at least one item in the related group area (see Geary, column 36, line 65 through column 37, line 7, where "assigning relevance score to an item" is read on "assigning of characteristics of objects) and wherein located items having a relevance score greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in the suggestions group area (see Geary, column 38, line 33 through column 39, line 4.)

As to claim 11, Geary as modified teaches the medium further comprising providing a user interface (see Geary, column 37, lines 8-10, and column 41, lines 13-17) including visual representations of the related, not related, and suggestions group areas, each visual

representation of an area including a visual representation of items contained therein (see Geary, column 37, lines 10-18, and column 42, lines 36-37.)

As to claim 12, Geary as modified teaches wherein the user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface by moving a visual representation of the item from a visual representation of the one group area to a visual representation of the another group area (see Geary, column 15, lines 12-26, and see column 42, lines 39-46.)

As to claim 13, Geary as modified teaches wherein the user interface comprises a graphical user interface (see Geary, column 41, lines 17-20) and the visual representations of the group areas each comprises a pane on a display (see Geary, column 52, lines 5-15, where "pane on a display" is supported by the structure of "displaying image packets".)

As to claim 14, Geary as modified teaches wherein the user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface (see Geary, column 41, lines 17-20) by dragging a visual representation of the item from a pane of the one group area to a pane of the another group area (see Geary, column 42, lines 39-48.)

As to claim 15, Geary as modified teaches wherein each of the items comprises a document (see Geary, column 7, lines 25-37.)

As to claim 16, Geary as modified teaches the medium further comprising providing related (see Geary, column 2, lines 24-33), not related (see Geary, column 14, lines 55-58) and suggestions group areas (see Geary, column 10, lines 55-64) for at least one other organization instance and further comprising modifying the predetermined criterion (see Geary, column 27, lines 29-39), based on the user moving an item from the related group area of the at least one other organization instance to the not related group area of the one organization instance or from the not related group area of the at least one other organization instance to the related group area of the one organization instance or from the suggestions group area of the at least one other organization instance to the related or not related group areas of the one organization instance (see Geary, column 15, lines 12-26, and see column 42, lines 39-46.)

As to claim 17, Geary teaches a method of automatically finding and organizing items similar to example items (see Abstract), comprising:

providing related (see column 2, lines 24-33), not related (see column 14, lines 55-58), and suggestions group areas for one organization instance (see column 10, lines 55-64), each of these areas to contain items;

searching a database to locate at least one item which is related to at least one item in the related group area based on a predetermined criterion and placing the located at least one item in the suggestions group area of the one organization instance (see column 2, lines 24-33), wherein the predetermined criterion (see column 27, lines 29-39) comprises assigning a normalized relevance score for each item based on each item's relevance to the at least one

item in the related group area and wherein located items having a relevance score greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in the suggestions group area (see column 38, line33 through column 39, line 4);

modifying the predetermined criterion (see column 27, lines 29-39) based on at least one of the user providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one of the group areas to another of the group areas (see column 42, lines 46-48) and the user moving an item from a related, not related or suggestions group area of another organization instance to one group area of the one organization instance (see column 42, lines 39-48.); and

continually searching the database to locate and place additional items in the suggestions group area of the one organization instance which are related to the at least one item in the related group area based upon the modified predetermined criterion (see column 22, lines 22-31 and column 39, lines 44-51.)

Geary does not teach receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area of the one organization instance.

Gilmour teaches a method of constructing a profile (see Abstract), in which he teaches receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area of the one organization instance (see column 28, lines 19-28, and see column 29, lines 26-32.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Geary to include receiving at least one

example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area of the one organization instance.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Geary by the teaching of Gilmour, because receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area of the one organization instance, would provide categorization of related searchable items into classes or groups of information by storing all related information about the established group/entity into a designated area.

As to claim 18, Geary as modified teaches the method further comprising providing a user interface (see Geary, column 37, lines 8-10, and column 41, lines 13-17) including visual representations of the related, not related, and suggestions group areas, each visual representation of an area including a visual representation of items contained therein (see Geary, column 37, lines 10-18, and column 42, lines 36-37.)

As to claim 19, Geary as modified teaches wherein the user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface by moving a visual representation of the item from a visual representation of the one group area to a visual representation of the another group area (see Geary, column 15, lines 12-26, and see column 42, lines 39-46.)

As to claim 20, Geary as modified teaches wherein the user interface comprises a graphical user interface (see Geary, column 41, lines 17-20) and the visual representations of

the group areas each comprises a pane on a display (see Geary, column 52, lines 5-15, where "pane on a display" is supported by the structure of "displaying image packets".)

As to claim 21, Geary as modified teaches wherein the user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface (see Geary, column 41, lines 17-20) by dragging a visual representation of the item from a pane of the one group area to a pane of the another group area (see Geary, column 42, lines 39-48.)

As to claim 22, Geary as modified teaches wherein each of the items comprises a document (see Geary, column 7, lines 25-37.)

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of art with respect to methods and systems database searching in general:

U.S. Patent No. 6,360,205 to Iyengar et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,246,975 to Rivonelli et al.

7. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmoudi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4887. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

tm

August 2, 2002

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